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ABSTRACT

This statement by the Research and Policy Committe of the Committee for Economic Development (CED), a nonprofit organization of 250 business leaders and educators, calls for major behavioral changes in those who govern and manage schools in the United States. It articulates an effective incentive structure for students, teachers, and administrators; proposes new ways of organizing the schools to support learning and achievement; and places central responsibility on communities and states for providing health and social services to children. It is argued that there can be no significant progress in educational reform until those who govern the system change the way schools are organized and managed. Four beliefs form the basis of the statement: (1) public schools are fundamental to a strong American society; (2) the primary mission of schools should be learning and achievement; (3) schools are not social-service institutions; and (4) the current emphasis on compliance with regulations should be reduced. It is recommended that rigorous national standards be implemented and that achievement, rather than compliance, be rewarded. Appendices contain the National Education Goals and a list of legislative proposals regarding social services in the schools. Information on the CED is also provided. (LMI)

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